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Commissioner for PatentsApplication No. 09/983,043**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A joist comprising lower and upper vertically spaced-apart chords rigidly interconnected by a succession of alternating and continuously interengaged tension and compression webs extending between the chords, each one of said compression webs being disposed between and linking successive tension webs such that a lower end portion of any given compression web presses a lower end portion of a first adjacent tension web against a top surface of said lower chord thereby forming a lower node, and an upper end portion of said any given compression web presses an upper end portion of a second adjacent tension web against an undersurface of said upper chord thereby forming an upper node, and said lower and upper nodes being respectively fastened to said lower chord and said upper chord, wherein said lower end portions and said upper end portions respectively comprise lower and upper angularly extending flat end portions, each of said compression webs having a first hole defined in said lower flat end portion thereof, said first hole being in registry with a first pair of corresponding holes respectively defined through said top surface of said lower chord and said lower flat end portion of said adjacent one of said tension webs, said first hole being placed in registry with said first pair of corresponding holes for receiving a bolt therein, and wherein each of said compression webs has a second hole defined in said upper flat end portion thereof, said second hole being in registry with a second pair of corresponding holes respectively defined through said undersurface of said upper chord and said upper flat end portion of said other adjacent one of said tension webs, said second hole being placed in registry with said second pair of corresponding holes for receiving a bolt therein, wherein each of said compression and tension webs includes an intermediate section extending between said lower and upper angularly extending flat end portions thereof, said lower and upper flat end portions extending in opposed parallel directions relative to said intermediate section, wherein said lower and upper flat end portions of each said compression web respectively extend inwardly of a corresponding lower flat end portion of said adjacent one of said tension webs and a corresponding upper flat end portion of said another adjacent one of said tension webs, and wherein said intermediate section of each said compression web extends from said lower flat end portion thereof at a location comprised between said first hole and a proximal end of said corresponding lower flat end

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portion of said adjacent one of said tension webs to said upper flat end portion at a location comprised between said second hole and a proximal end of said corresponding upper flat end of said another adjacent one of said tension webs, thereby preventing transmission of tensile forces to said bolts, and wherein said intermediate section of each compression web extends substantially at right angles to said lower and upper flat end portions thereof.

Claim 2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (previously amended) A joist as defined in claim 1, wherein said tension and compression webs are connected to each other and to said upper and lower chords at said upper and lower nodes by way of a single bolt at each node.

Claim 4. (cancelled)

Claim 5. (cancelled)

Claim 6. (original) A joist as defined in claim 5, wherein each said compression web is generally Z-shaped.

Claim 7. (cancelled)

Claim 8. (currently amended) A joist as defined in claim-4 1, wherein said tension and compression webs extend in opposed diagonal directions relative to said lower and upper chords.

Claim 9. (original) A joist as defined in claim 8, wherein each of said bolts also extends through a load transferring member disposed to engage an adjacent one of said tension web to reduce local deformations at the points of connection due to loads applied onto the joist.

Claim 10. (original) A joist as defined in claim 9, wherein each said load transferring member has an angularly extending projection configured to bear against a corresponding intermediate section of one of said tension webs.

Claim 11. (original) A joist as defined in claim 10, wherein each said load transferring member defines a hole for receiving one of said bolts, said hole being offset relative to a central point of said load transferring means.

Claim 12. (original) A joist as defined in claim 11, wherein each said load transferring member is provided in the form of an eccentric washer.

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Claims 13 to 29. (previously cancelled)

Claim 30. (previously presented) A joist as defined in claim 8, wherein all of said tension webs are parallel to each other, and all of said compression webs are parallel to each other.

Claim 31. (new) A joist comprising lower and upper vertically spaced-apart chords rigidly interconnected by a succession of alternating and continuously interengaged tension and compression webs extending between the chords, each one of said compression webs being disposed between and linking successive tension webs such that a lower end portion of any given compression web presses a lower end portion of a first adjacent tension web against a top surface of said lower chord thereby forming a lower node, and an upper end portion of said any given compression web presses an upper end portion of a second adjacent tension web against an undersurface of said upper chord thereby forming an upper node, and said lower and upper nodes being respectively fastened to said lower chord and said upper chord, wherein said lower end portions and said upper end portions respectively comprise lower and upper angularly extending flat end portions, each of said compression webs having a first hole defined in said lower flat end portion thereof, said first hole being in registry with a first pair of corresponding holes respectively defined through said top surface of said lower chord and said lower flat end portion of said adjacent one of said tension webs, said first hole being placed in registry with said first pair of corresponding holes for receiving a bolt therein, and wherein each of said compression webs has a second hole defined in said upper flat end portion thereof, said second hole being in registry with a second pair of corresponding holes respectively defined through said undersurface of said upper chord and said upper flat end portion of said other adjacent one of said tension webs, said second hole being placed in registry with said second pair of corresponding holes for receiving a bolt therein, wherein each of said compression and tension webs includes an intermediate section extending between said lower and upper angularly extending flat end portions thereof, said lower and upper flat end portions extending in opposed parallel directions relative to said intermediate section, wherein said tension and compression webs extend in opposed diagonal directions relative to said lower and upper chords, wherein each of said bolts also extends through a load transferring member disposed to engage an adjacent one of said tension web to reduce local deformations at the points of connection due to loads applied onto the joist, and wherein each said load transferring member has an angularly extending projection configured to bear against a corresponding intermediate section of one of said tension webs.

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Claim 32. (new) A joist as defined in claim 31, wherein each said load transferring member defines a hole for receiving one of said bolts, said hole being offset relative to a central point of said load transferring means.

Claim 33. (new) A joist as defined in claim 32, wherein each said load transferring member is provided in the form of an eccentric washer.